

## Artillery Troops Take Up Old Habits



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

**Spc. Alberto Esparza, a cannon crewmember of B Battery, 3-82 Field Artillery loads a 155-mm high explosive round into the Howitzer as part of qualification.**

**By Pfc. Al Barrus**

### 122nd MPAD

CAMP BLACK JACK-  
"You'd better get down, man, it gets pretty dusty when they fire," 1st Sgt. Agustin Rodriguez bellowed, taking a knee and covering his ears under the roar of a M109-A6 Paladin's engine. As the sound of amplified thunder penetrates your ears and jolts your heart, a 155-millimeter high explosive round launches from a Howitzer. For a moment, you can't see a thing as loose dust is knocked into the air by the tremor.

The Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division appreciate these sights and sounds. On this day, May 14, they re-qualify their skills as artillerymen: the job they joined the Army for, but not the

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## Memorial Service Honors Fallen 39th Soldier

**By 1st. Lt. Christopher Heathscott  
39th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD, Iraq- "This is a day that I've come to dread, ever since I took command," said Lt. Col. Kendall Penn, commander of the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team, during the fourth memorial service held by the 39th Brigade since its troops deployed in March. "It's a day that frankly I hoped I

would never have to live to see."

Just three days earlier on May 6, Staff Sgt. Hensley Box Jr., of Camden, Ark., became the seventh Arkansas National Guardsman to lose his life to Operation Iraqi Freedom II. It was the first loss for the battalion, which is serving under the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Early that Thursday morning, an individual refusing to stop his vehicle at a 1-153rd checkpoint required Box to use

force to stop the approaching threat. Standing his post to stop the potential vehicle-borne improvised explosive device from entering his checkpoint, proved to be a legitimate and lifesaving duty. Once force was applied to stop the charging weapon, the vehicle's explosives detonated, killing the driver and fatally wounding Box.

"That vehicle never reached its target. It actually saved the lives of many of us in this room today... and countless

Iraqi civilians," said Capt. Lynn Martin, the commander of Company D, 1-153rd Inf., in reference to Box's efforts to stop the vehicle.

"His willingness to stand there and do his duty, even though it cost him his life, not only saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers, but I think he was also defined in the pure sense of...the word 'hero,'" Penn said.

With hundreds of Soldiers listening in silence, a somber

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## 3-82 FA's Bravo Battery Thrives on Firing the Big Guns

**Continued from Page 1** job they've been doing since they got to Iraq.

"Today we are conducting group qualification to take over brigade fire support from Alpha Battery," said Capt. Mike Barefield, B Battery commander. The battalion rotates out batteries every two months, and the 'hot' battery keeps one of its line platoons standing by to fire at all times.

Everyone else conducts patrols, and cordon and search missions in Baghdad, because the battery is still responsible for keeping the peace in its area of operation.

Alpha Battery has been hot since the First Team took over the fire missions in April. Starting May 15, it's Bravo's turn to point the big guns down range, Barefield said.

This is the first time these

troops have fired since their exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., nearly a year ago. The artillerymen are excited to be back in their Paladins.

"The Soldiers are hyper to do this, and they want to prove they are better than the next guy," said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Cummings, platoon sergeant in B Battery. "They want the faster time. [But] they need to forget about being quick for today, though. You need to get in there and do everything by the book for qualification."

The troops are granted plenty of time to practice: going through all the steps with their crew teams before qualifying. When it comes to certification, first the Soldiers do a dry fire with their platoon sergeant standing by with a checklist, verifying they go through all the regulation procedures. They just don't fire a live round, Cummings said.

The Howitzers point at an open field north of Baghdad, which was also an impact zone used by the 1st Armored

Division. A TNT-filled HE round has a 50-meter kill radius. Accuracy is important: hence all the training. But after the preparation is through, speed becomes critical, too.

"You could be moving the vehicle down a tank trail ... and receive a fire mission and have 45-to-90 seconds to stop and shoot," the platoon sergeant said. "You have to be quick. You have to be good."

The Soldiers of B Battery know what's required of them in the artillery, and it's what they joined the Army for.

"It's hard work," said Pvt. Eldin Bosque, an artillery loader. "A lot of nights we're going to spend out here in the Paladins, but that's what we do for our country. That is what we do, and that's what we're here for."

"I can't imagine myself doing anything else for the Army," Cummings said. "When you're in the field with this Paladin right here, I'm convinced that there can't be a better job out there."



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

**The earth trembles and kicks up dust as a 155mm shell is lobbed from Camp Black Jack to an open field north of Baghdad. Bravo Battery, 3-82 Field Artillery, 2BCT is firing for qualification, as they take their brother battery's place as the fire support battery instead of being full-time infantry.**

### Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where?	wayn?
Why?	leish?
How?	shloun?

#### Saturday

High: 93  
Low: 67



#### Sunday

High: 96  
Low: 73



#### Monday

High: 97  
Low: 73



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office



## Professional, Polite & Prepared to Kill



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## Wedding Planners Cite Deployments for Seasonal Rise

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*  
KILLEEN, Texas- As the multibillion dollar wedding industry swings into full gear for the summer months, area vendors are seeing mixed results.

With more than 2 million couples getting married each year, spending an average of more than \$22,000 on their weddings, the wedding industry generates around \$50 billion annually in the United States, according to the Conde Nast Infobank, from the publishers of *Bride's* and *Modern Bride* magazines.

The looming summer months are the busiest season for the industry. June through

August are the most popular wedding dates, according to the Association of Certified Professional Wedding Planners, though many Southern states often see a push in late spring and early fall.

As the summer months draw near, area businesses close to the wedding industry are starting to feel the impact of the seasonal wedding boom, though some say the effects are muted by ongoing and recent deployments of Fort Hood Soldiers.

"Since the Soldiers left, it's been dead," said Richard Shields, who owns a wedding store and limousine service in

Copperas Cove.

Though the typical wedding season may be suffering, the deployments and redeployments of thousands of Soldiers in the first few months of the year created an impromptu surge in weddings locally, according to area vendors.

The Wedding Cottage, a full-service wedding operation in Killeen, experienced a rush as Soldiers prepared to leave or hurried home to their waiting loved ones, said owner Sharon Hollis.

"We'll have more when they come back," Hollis said of the most recent round of deployments.

## 1-153 Point Man Remembered by Bowie Brigade

**Continued from Page 1**  
mood filled the building as leaders in the battalion stood one after the other to speak on how Box personified each of the seven Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

"Each one of us knew the hazards at the front of that checkpoint, but he always insisted on being the point man, so he could reduce that risk to his Soldiers," Martin said.

"He led from the front like any good leader does," said Capt. Slade McPherson, commander of Co. B, 1-153rd Inf. "He will always be remembered by the people who served with him. I pray that the Lord will watch over his wife and his family at home, helping to guide them through this painful time."

Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Veazey also addressed those in attendance with strong emotion created

not only by the loss of a Soldier, but also by that of a friend.

"I stand before you as your command sergeant major... and I'm hurting," he said. "Sergeant Box always had a smile on his face. I drew strength from that. I draw from it now. He's more than just a Soldier in my battalion; to me, he was a friend."

At the conclusion of the leaders' vocalized respects, the battalion was called to attention for roll call. The call for Staff Sgt. Hensley Box, Jr. left the gathering in an emotional silence.

The void was then filled by the sound of the seven-man rifle team firing three volleys, followed by the playing of "Taps" as a salute to his honor.

As the Soldiers passed by a display set up in Box' honor, they rendered a slow, respectful salute. The challenge presented to them by Veazey, hopefully stuck firm in their minds.

"He wouldn't want us cowering down; he wouldn't want us letting this get the best

of us. He would want us drawing strength from his death. He would want us drawing strength from the Soldier that he was."



By 1st Lt. Christopher Heathscott, 39BCT  
**A Soldier with the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment pays his respects to Staff Sgt. Hensley Box, Jr. of Camden, Ark., by presenting a slow, respectful salute to a display set up in his honor. Box was killed in action May 6 when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated.**

### FYS: For Your Safety



### CHOOSING AND USING EYE PROTECTION

#### Using Protective Eyewear

You can guard against eye injury by making sure that you are wearing the appropriate protective eyewear for the particular eye hazards you face. It's important to remember that regular glasses alone do not offer protection from eye hazards. Follow your unit's established safety procedures, and never hesitate to ask your supervisor if you have any questions about what you can do to protect your sight for life.

#### Take Responsibility

If your unit provides or recommends a certain kind of eye protection, it's likely that they selected that eye protection for good reasons and provides guidelines for its use based on the experience of others in similar situations. Wearing eye protection benefits both you and your unit.

Learn what first aid is available in case of eye injury and where to go to get first aid quickly. Wear the right eye protection and you may become a safety statistic.

**MAKE SAFETY A  
"20 / 20" VISION**

## Killeen Kangaroos Look Forward to Upcoming Season

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- New Killeen head football coach Sam Jones doesn't need to dig too deep to find proper motivation for his Roos program.

"We want to take our team to the next level," Jones said.

What the "next level" is for those not familiar with recent history, is postseason action for the Roos, who have been absent from the playoffs the previous two seasons.

Jones, who was hired this past month after four-year head coach David Wetzel took over at San Antonio Reagan, knows the importance of these past four weeks of spring football.

Tonight's "Maroon-White" game at Leo Buckley Stadium will show exactly how much this team has absorbed in this short period.

"At the beginning, the offense was way ahead of the defense, but these past few days, the defense is catching up so it should be a good game

(tonight)," Jones said.

"With only three returning defenders, we needed to look at a bunch of players and see who was going to step up and make some plays.

With the lack of defensive veterans, look for standout offensive players like Columbus Givens and Juaquin Iglesias to play on the other side of the ball as well to pro-

vide athletic depth.

Jones has spent the majority of the spring working specific situations with the players on both sides of the ball to prepare them for the rigors of District 16-4A football.

Killeen will move to 16-4A, along with Lampasas and Ellison to join Waco University, Brownwood and Waco Midway.



Killeen Daily Herald

**New Killeen High School head coach Sam Jones calls for a breakdown to end practice on Thursday. Jones and the rest of the Roos will end their spring practice session with the annual Spring Scimmage tonight at Leo Buckley Stadium.**

## Today in History

### May 22

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1455** The opening battle of England's War of the Roses, the dynastic struggle between the House of York, whose badge was a white rose, and the House of Lancaster, later associated with a red rose, which would stretch on for 30 years

**1843** A thousand pioneers head West on the Oregon Trail

**1859** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is born

**1939** The "Pact of Steel" is signed; the Axis is formed

**1990** Yemen united



## MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 11  
Toronto 5

Tampa Bay 5  
Cleveland 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 7  
Chicago 6

San Francisco 6  
Montreal 5

Philadelphia 5  
San Diego 4

Cincinnati 7  
Houston 4

New York 9  
Colorado 7

Atlanta 2  
Los Angeles 0

Florida 6 (10 innings)  
Arizona 5

Milwaukee @ Pittsburgh - postponed due to severe weather conditions (tornado warning)



## NBA

CONFERENCE  
FINALS

(Best of 7 series)




**Western Conference**

Game 1: Los Angeles @ Minnesota

**Eastern Conference**

Game 1: Detroit @ Indiana

## TV GUIDE

	 ATLANTIC	 PACIFIC	 Sports	 Spectrum
<b>18:00</b>	Law & Order	Saturday Night Live ('03-'04) 17:30	Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel	The Great Race 16:00
<b>19:00</b>	Headline News/ Navy/Marine Corps News	Kickin' It	SportsCenter	The View
<b>20:00</b>	SportsCenter	AMA Motocross	Best Damn Sports Show Period	Burt Wolf's Local Flavors/ A Makeover Story
<b>21:00</b>	MLB - Los Angeles Dodgers @ Atlanta Braves	AMA Motocross	MLB - St. Louis Cardinals @ Chicago Cubs	Trading Spaces
<b>22:00</b>		ESPNews		Trading Spaces